

A THIRTEEN-LETTER POSITIONAL LIST

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A number of Word Ways readers have shown a marked interest in words in which the central letter ranged through the alphabet from A to Z, and the letter groups on both sides of the central letter also formed bona fide words. John Meyer looked at seven-letter words in the May 1978 issue; Leslie Card extended the study to nine-letter words in the August 1978 issue; Jeff Grant and Roger Hannahs continued on to eleven-letter words in the November 1978 issue.

In the list of thirteen-letter words given below, my guiding intent was to avoid the use of inferred forms except those clearly indicated. All words, both thirteen-letter and six-letter, can be found in Webster's New International Dictionary, Second or Third Editions.

circumAviator, displeAsingly, unmistAkingly, temperAmental, ...
 contraBassist, feebleBrained, concomBustion
 anticaChectic, heteroClinous, hyperaCcurate, pleuraCanthus
 costarDmonger, hyperaDenosis
 acetylEnation, commisErations, internEuronic, lampadEphoria, ...
 contraFecture, pingueFaction, squareFlipper
 psychoGnostic, coffeeGrowing
 sabbatHkeeper, sheepsHearing, uncampHorated
 angustIseptal, cobaltIcyanic, acroestIchally, suburbIcarian, ...
 jingleJangled
 undersKinning
 anticiLverite, chanceLlorate, medicoLegally, NetherLandian, ...
 phenylMethane, pseudoMalaria, bridesMaiding, superiMproved, ...
 cryptoNeurous, jobberNowlism, patterNmaking
 inventOrially, isobarOmetric, magnetOdynamo, perineOvulvar, ...
 francoPhilism, intersPrinkle
 sesquiQuintas
 heteroRhachis, paramoRphosis, quarteRmaster, aeropeRitonia, ...
 bellowSmaking, candleSticked, clotheSbasket, arbeitSschule, ...
 intersTratify, annexaTionist, characTerical, undersTrapper, ...
 adventUreship, gesticUlation, matricUlation, supersUborder, ...
 nonconVenable, sherryVallies
 hearthWarming, tiddleWinking
 paradoXurines
 copperYtailed
 chromaZurines

In all prior lists, the most difficult letter was Q; surprisingly, I had a great deal more trouble finding a word with K in the center.